

Social Service Human Relations Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 25, 2010

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**, Vice-President Villareal called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Present were: Nielsen, James, Dailey, and Biggs. Absent were: Wasko and Soglin Staff: Franz

Staff explained that after reviewing Robert's Rules of Order, and Cagle's Parliamentary Procedure, and meeting with the City Attorney, he determined that members not present at a previous meeting can vote on the minutes from that meeting. This will allow the Board to vote on Minutes from previous meetings, as long as there is a quorum present.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes of Regular meeting October 22, 2009 and Special meeting December 3, 2009 were approved as presented M/S James/Biggs Unanimous

3-A. **PRESENTATION REGARDING 2010 SEASON OF NONVIOLENCE, AND A REQUEST FOR THE BOARD TO BE A CO-SPONSOR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN ALAMEDA, IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON OF NONVIOLENCE. AUDREY LORD-HAUSMAN, ACCYF**

Audrey Lord-Hausman introduced herself as a Youth advocate, Youth Collaborative Member and a member of the Season For Nonviolence (SNV) planning committee. The committee also includes Nancy Balassi, Sylvia Gibson, and Diana Kenney, all of whom were active in coordinating successful SNV activities and events in previous years. Because of ACCYF staffing changes last year, there were no SNV activities. The Youth Collaborative has played a leading role in coordinating SNV events in Alameda since 2004.

The Season of Nonviolence is an international campaign, supported by hundreds of cities and organizations worldwide that sponsor projects and programs to create greater awareness and consciousness of the principles and practices of nonviolence. The season extends from January 30 to April 4, the anniversary of the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King. The season now also celebrates the life of Cesar Chavez

The committee got a late start this year, and the primary activities planned are Daily Readings in the Elementary and Middle Schools (already underway) and a Speech Contest on May 15th at the Main Library. The plan is to use the momentum created this year to form a committee, which will start planning in August for next year's SNV events. The City Council and AUSD have already voted to support Alameda's SNV and the committee is requesting that SSHRB consider being a co-sponsor and discussing ways that they might be able to support the season, including playing a role in helping publicize the Speech Contest, and have a Board member be one of the Judges. The theme for this year's contest is "What can we do to make Alameda a better place?"

Audrey distributed copies of the Readings and a packet of information that included the history of the SNV, Resolutions of support from the City and AUSD, SNV Pledges and other information.

Staff noted that the Board first supported the Season of Nonviolence in 2003, at the request of ATAH.

After discussion the Board agreed to support the Speech Contest and other SNV activities and a motion was made that SSHRB and ATAH Co-Sponsor Alameda's Season For Nonviolence. M/S Nielsen/Dailey Unanimous

A brief discussion followed regarding whether SSHRB had a logo, and noting the ATAH does have one. Staff agreed to check the files regarding a SSHRB logo.

3-B. WORK GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS - Information – 15 minutes

Alamedans Together Against Hate Workgroup – Villareal

The workgroup meet with the Police Chief in December and had a discussion that included whether or not we should hold a Community Forum to address Racial Profiling, taking a proactive role regarding this issue. Chief Tibbett believed that, at this time, this topic was a non-issue, but was open to participating in a forum regarding any issue that might come up.

There questions regarding what determined this to be a non-issue, and if the plan to hold a forum on racial profiling had come from a previous forum.

Member Villareal explained that questions regarding racial profiling had come up at a forum at the College of Alameda, but that they came up at the end of the Forum. This was why ATAH had suggested a forum to continue the discussion.

Member James was at the Forum and said that students on campus had issues with their treatment by Alameda Police (not the Peralta Sheriff's department), and that there had been discussion regarding follow up on these questions. He also suggested that rather than having a Forum specifically on Racial Profiling, that a more pro-active approach is taken, (i.e. a meeting where College of Alameda students / Alamedans are made aware of their rights and responsibilities, possibly hosted by both Alameda and Peralta police.)

Staff added that the ACCYF Alameda Youth Speaks (AYS) program provides opportunities to meet with Chief Tibbett and other officers. The last AYS was at APC and attended by 25-30 youth. The next one will be on 3/10 at the Veteran's memorial building. Staff suggested that the board could help with the outreach component of AYS, trying to see that youth know about the program and "are more comfortable getting there".

Member Nielsen asked about prior conversations as to whether ATAH should disband /or change name to more pro-active one.

Member Villareal explained that both items had been discussed at their last meeting. They plan to keep the workgroup active, are still considering a name change, and would react promptly if any issue were to arise. They are also looking at ways to be proactive and will consider member James' suggestion regarding a meeting at the College of Alameda.

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup – Nielsen

Workgroup is in the process of updating the Resource Guide and adding website information / links for the agencies. A presentation was made to AUSD counselors to let them know of available resources, and to find out the type of resources they would like to have available.

Member Nielsen also explained that President Wasko and Staff are working with the Youth Collaborative to submit an application for Alameda to be considered as one of the 100 Best Communities For Young People. Winners have the opportunity to access and leverage a number of outside resources as well as being able to identify themselves as one of the 100 Best Communities For Young People. Review of past winners makes us believe that Alameda has a good chance to be recognized. The collection of all the data required for the submission has value in itself, as it helps us define and understand how we support our youth. She also distributed census data from American Fact Finder.

Staff noted that the new Census data will provide answers to many of the questions we have asked in past needs assessments.

Member James noted how we can use a Google document and/or other online resources to make the resource Guide more widely available.

Resource Sharing Workgroup – Biggs

Member Biggs let us know that at this time he does not have the time / energy to lead this group.

Member Nielsen expressed interest in participating in this group and exploring how it relates to the A&A Workgroup.

Sister City Workgroup – Staff

Staff explained that, now that the Alameda Sister City Association (ASCA) has incorporated as a private non-profit, the Sister City workgroup's last task will be to put an item on the City Council agenda to officially dissolve the workgroup, recognize ASCA, and appoint a Council liaison to ASCA. He also announced that ASCA is receiving a delegation from Jiangyin, our Sister City this Sunday.

4. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA - Information - 10 minutes

Member Nielsen announced the RFI being put out by Google to bring broadband technology to Alameda. WireAlameda is a new organization supporting this application, with the support of the City of Alameda, Alameda hospital, and others. She sees opportunities for this technology to benefit the groups and populations that are the focus of our Board, such as the homebound and those with disabilities.

Member James expressed hope that this effort would not widen the "Digital Divide", but rather bring this technology to all.

Member James told us about the new Computer Lab at the Alameda Multi-Cultural Center. He also let us know that last Friday there was a Black History Month Film Screening and discussion Member James was on the panel which discussed the film "Two Black Nations"

Today he attended an Alameda County Economic Forecast Meeting. The topic was “The Worst is Yet To Come”. The topics discussed and the cuts in services and funds that are on the horizon make it even more important for the Board to support Safety-net Services and Resource Sharing.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** - Information - 3 minutes per speaker

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

M/S to Adjourn James/Nielsen Unanimous 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Franz
Community Development Coordinator